

BOBBY JINDAL
Governor

JAMES M. Le BLANC
Secretary

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Suit Drive Donations Add to Corrections' Reentry Efforts

Men's Wearhouse, Local Non-Profit Offer Invaluable Job Search Assistance

(Baton Rouge) Searching for a job can be harrowing experience, doubly so for a convicted felon with little or no resources. In Louisiana, more than 15,000 individuals are released from state prisons and parish jails each year. While many offenders may have acquired educational, vocational or work skills while incarcerated, many don't have any money to buy the basics upon release.

During the months of September and October 2008, people all across Louisiana will have the opportunity to contribute to the Men's Wearhouse National Suit Drive. The suit drive is a community call to action to donate gently-used, professional clothing to be distributed to releasing male offenders who don't have the monetary means to acquire such attire.

The lack of appropriate interview and work clothing can and does affect a person's ability to get a job no matter how well trained, according to the Employment and Training for America's Homeless Best Practice Guide.

"The Department has been working diligently over the last few years to provide reentry services to offenders that will prevent their return to prison," explained Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary James M. Le Blanc. "The suit drive reinforces Department's efforts since a key to successful reentry for offenders is finding and maintaining employment."

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George Zimmer, Founder and CEO of Men's Wearhouse believes no one should be denied the opportunity to work because they lack appropriate interview clothing. "We are asking the community to join us in our efforts to help our neighbors in need take important step toward self-sufficiency," Zimmer said.

The Baton Rouge-based statewide non-profit group, Refined By Fire Ministries, Inc. (RBF), will coordinate the donations and work with the Department on allocating clothing to (adult and juvenile) male offenders upon release.

Scott Huber, General Manager of Operations for Stupp Corporation and Refined By Fire Ministries, Inc.'s Chairman of the Board states, "Assisting in the facilitation of this outstanding collaboration fits hand-in-hand with our organization's mission and newest initiative, Re-entry Benefiting Families which connects offenders and their families to resources in their communities. We look forward to this becoming an annual event."

How it Works

During September and October 2008, people can drop of their "gently used" interview and work appropriate clothing (preferably on hangers), including belts and shoes, to any of the following Men's Wearhouse **retail** locations in Louisiana: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Shreveport and Monroe. All donors will receive a tax receipt and a 10% off "thank you" coupon from Men's Wearhouse.

Men's Wearhouse will match the community's efforts by donating a new dress shirt to Refined By Fire Ministries reentry program for each professional item of clothing that is donated by helpful members of the community.

"The Department is very appreciative of the generosity shown by Mr. Zimmer and Men's Wearhouse as well as Refined By Fire Ministries," said Secretary Le Blanc. "This partnership will give hope to thousands of men actively seeking a better future for themselves and their families."

Post Office Box 94304, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9304 • (225) 342-6740 • Fax (225) 342-3095

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Men's Wearhouse – Louisiana Donation Locations

Baton Rouge

5915 Bluebonnet Dr.
Suite C-2 (near Mall of Louisiana)
Baton Rouge, LA 70836

Metairie

3033 N. Causeway Blvd.
(20th and N. Causeway)
Metairie, LA 70002

Monroe

4756 Pecanland Mall Drive
Pecanland Commons
Monroe, LA 71203

Lake Charles

630 West Prien Lake Road
Shoppes at Prien Lake
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Shreveport

7151 Youree Dr.
Suite 100
Shreveport, LA 71105

Men's Wearhouse Tuxedo/Formal Wear locations will not accept donations. Professional, gently-used attire including slacks, jackets, suits, ties, shoes and belts must be dropped off at one of the retail locations above.

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